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LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Georgia related to the situation in north Caucasus (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex
circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

In connection with information circulated by the mass media of the Russian Federation concerning a statement by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation alleging that Georgia "has decided to set up in its territories a government-in-exile of Chechnya headed by Aslan Maskhadov, as well as some groups of fighters ...", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia is authorized categorically to refute these fabrications as being slanderous and completely unfounded.

In this connection, the Embassy of Georgia in the Russian Federation has been informed that it will shortly receive from the Russian Federation exhaustive explanations as to whether this provocative statement is in fact attributable to a highly placed official representative of the Supreme Council of the Russian Federation.

In any case, there are grounds for stating that certain forces are aiming to undermine the good-neighbourly relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia, which must never under any circumstances be allowed.

Georgia has reason seriously to suspect that the ultimate goal of the authors of such fabrications is to involve Georgia in the conflict in the northern Caucasus. This is demonstrated by the ever-increasing wave of groundless accusations that the leadership of Georgia is aiding and abetting terrorists.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia urges the Russian Federation to take decisive steps to halt these provocative actions.

Tbilisi, 10 November 1999
